

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BRAZIL STATES ITS CASE ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION

EMBASSY BRASILIA REPORTS THAT ON MARCH 10 PRESIDENT
GEISEL RELEASED A 115-PAGE STATEMENT REAFFIRMING BRAZIL'S
STEADFAST VIEWS ON NUCLEAR POLICY. THE MAIN POINTS OF
THE STATEMENT ARE:

--BRAZIL IS VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL FUEL SOURCES AND
NEEDS THE NUCLEAR-FUEL OPTION.

--ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING FACILITIES MUST BE ON
BRAZILIAN SOIL.

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--THE BRAZIL/FRG AGREEMENT MUST BE ACCEPTED IN ITS
ENTIRETY OR NOT AT ALL.

--THE SAFEGUARDS INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT EXCEED
STANDARDS SET BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

--THE LACK OF EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
COULD FRUSTRATE NONPROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES BY

STIMULATING THE INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR
TECHNOLOGY. (BRASILIA) 1898, 3/10.

2. KOREA: CALM IN THE SOUTH, SO FAR

EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT SOUTH KOREAN REACTION TO USG
STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS REGARDING NORTH KOREA HAS BEEN
SURPRISINGLY CALM. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE EXCHANGE OF
MESSAGES BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND KIM IL-SUNG HAS
PRAISED THE US RESOLUTION NOT TO DISCUSS THE KOREAN
QUESTION WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ROK. MFA
OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE
"PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS" OF THE LIFTING OF US PASSPORT
RESTRICTIONS AND FEARS THAT FRIENDLY NON-ALIGNED NATIONS
WILL BELIEVE US/NORTH KOREAN RAPPROCHEMENT IS PENDING AND
THUS REMAIN NEUTRAL IN ANY UNGA DEBATE ON THE KOREAN
QUESTION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ALMOST EERILY CALM REACTION MAY BE
EXPLAINED BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

--THE KOREANS ARE TOO ALARMED TO REACT NORMALLY;

--THEY FEAR THAT OVER-REACTION WILL DAMAGE THEIR
ALREADY PRECARIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE US;

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--THIS IS THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

THE TRUTH, HOWEVER, COULD BE A COMBINATION OF ALL THREE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) SEOUL 1952, 3/10.

3. THE SUDAN: COLOR ETHIOPIA RED

FOREIGN MINISTRY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR YOUSIF MUKHTAR (PRO-
TECT) HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR BREWER THAT:

--THERE IS MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT EAST GERMANY,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND YUGOSLAVIA ARE PROVIDING ARMS TO
ETHIOPIA.

--THE SOVIETS, WITH THE EGYPTIAN EXPERIENCE IN MIND,
RECOGNIZE THEY MAY BE FORCED TO LEAVE SOMALIA AND
ESTABLISH THEIR AFRICAN BASE IN ETHIOPIA.

--THE USSR'S "MAN" IN ETHIOPIA IS LIEUTENANT COLONEL

ATNAFU ABATE, A VICE PRESIDENT ON THE RULING COUNCIL.

--ATNAFU MAY REPLACE MENGISTU AS ETHIOPIA'S STRONGMAN
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: MUKHTAR'S VIEWS ARE SHARED BY MOST
SUDANESE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THESE
MATTERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 798, 3/9.

4. ANGOLA UPDATE

A FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEE, JUST RETURNED TO LISBON
FROM A VISIT TO LUANDA, REPORTS THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS
ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA:

--PRESIDENT NETO MAINTAINS HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY
DESPITE LOWER-CLASS RESENTMENT AT THE MPLA'S FAILURE
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TO DELIVER ON PROMISES.

--MPLA HARDLINERS NITO ALVES AND FELIPE MARTINS HAVE
DROPPED FROM SIGHT, WHILE HENRIQUE DOS SANTOS IS
INCREASINGLY SEEN AS ANGOLA'S "EMINENCE GRISE."

--BLACK RACISM REMAINS STRONG AND WIDESPREAD.

--THERE IS A GROWING POPULAR CERTAINTY THAT THE
CUBANS ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS.
THEIR CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION MAKES THEM INCREASINGLY
UNPOPULAR.

--THE DECREASING AVAILABILITY OF FOOD AND INADEQUATE
MEDICAL CARE CONTINUE TO PLAGUE LUANDA, BUT PUBLIC
SAFETY HAS INCREASED. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 1935, 3/10

5. MATANZIMA RATTLES HIS ASSEGAI

CONSULATE GENERAL DURBAN REPORTS THAT TRANSKEIAN PRIME
MINISTER, CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA, OPENED THE ANNUAL
CONGRESS OF THE RULING TRANSKEIAN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
PARTY IN UMTATA ON MARCH 8 WITH A SPEECH WHICH THREATENED
WAR WITH SOUTH AFRICA UNLESS LANDS CLAIMED BY TRANSKEI
BUT OCCUPIED BY SOUTH AFRICA ARE CEDED TO TRANSKEI.
MATANZIMA REPORTEDLY SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE A
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BECAUSE THE "ONLY ALTERNATIVE" IS
"AN ARMED STRUGGLE."

CONSULATE GENERAL COMMENT: TRANSKEI'S CLAIM TO LANDS
OCCUPIED BY SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT NEW AND WAS LAST GIVEN

PROMINENCE BY MATANZIMA IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE

LAST YEAR. MATANZIMA'S UNEXPECTED BELLIGERENCY TOWARD THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED VERY PROMINENT
ATTENTION IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND ON THE GOVERNMENT-
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CONTROLLED TELEVISION AND RADIO. (UNCLASSIFIED) DURBAN 114,
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